**IT Applications Unit 3, AOS 1, Online Communities**

Complete the following, from Chapter 2, Online Communities, pgs, 51-58

**Website that support online communities**

**Wikis**

1. Describe the nature of a wiki.

A wiki is a website that allows users to enter and communally edit its content.

1. What are strengths of wikis?

The major strength of a wiki is that multiple people can work on the same document at the same time. This means that it becomes a sum of their knowledge; this makes wikis a great source of free information.

1. Distinguish between, public, protected and private wikis.

Public wikis allows unregistered users that are identified by their IP addresses to edit content. Protected and private wikis limit the function to registered users.

**Blogs**

1. What is a blog?

A blog is a website that has only one main page and acts like an online journal or diary.

1. Distinguish between a blog and a wiki.

A blog is usually maintained by a single author and a wiki is usually a collaborative space.

**Forums**

1. Describe the nature of a forum.

A forum is an online message board or discussion website that supports online communities that wish to facilitate information exchange.

1. What is a thread?

A thread is a collection of posts displayed from oldest to newest.

**Purpose of an online community:**

1. To broadcast information and events using various tools
   1. List tools for broadcasting information.
      * A simple website
      * A blog set up for the organisation
      * An email mailing list
      * A twitter account
   2. What is a RSS feed?

An RSS feed allows users to receive content feeds from a variety of sources, including the latest news headlines.

1. To facilitate discussions, collaboration & information using tools
   1. What is required for collaborative problem solving to work well?

For collaborative problem solving to work everyone must stay on task and provide input.

* 1. Distinguish between synchronous and asynchronous collaboration.

Asynchronous discussion forums or groups can be used to discuss the dynamics of a problem. Synchronous chat tools can be used for collaboration, groups need to copy their conversation to another space so people are accountable for decisions made.

**Characteristics of online communities, p 57**

Be aware of the following:

In setting up an online community characteristics of communities need to be taken into account:

1. Online communities appealing to gender groups
2. Online communities appealing to special needs
3. Online communities appealing to cultural needs
4. Age-restrictive and age-targeted communities
5. Access requirements need also to be considered, (open or closed).

**Non-Technical Constraints on developing a website for a community, p 58**

1. Ensuring privacy in an online community
   1. Describe the strategies that co-ordinators can put in place to decrease the risk of privacy attacks.
      * All requests for membership are properly verified. Some communities have a waiting time of 24 hours on memberships, to prevent people from gaining quick access and doing damage.
      * All passwords must have a combination of letters, numbers, symbol and minimum lengths to lower the probability of a hackable password.
      * Community administrators need to be observed to what is happening in the community and quick to pounce on inappropriate behaviours that goes against the protocols of the community.,
   2. How does the Information Privacy Act protect privacy?

The Information Privacy Act protects privacy by not allowing owners of online communities cannot use collected data for any other purpose without consent.

1. Copyright in online communities
   1. What copyright considerations need to be taken into account when setting up a community?

Copyright considerations you should take into account when setting up an online community include; do you own the images and text that you are using on the website? And are you infringing on the copyright of others by broadcasting discussions and ideas in an open forum?

1. Human rights requirements
   1. What is contained in the Human Rights & Responsibilities Charter that covers members’ freedom, respect, equality and dignity.
      * Encourage hate crimes on the religious vilification of others
      * Discriminate on the basis of gender, culture or sexuality
      * Encourage the victimisation of members in the community
2. Social online protocols
   1. What is meant by online protocols?

Online protocols are rules that you should follow while you’re online.

Eg. Be respectful, don’t make rude comments based on race and gender, don’t use shouting and keep all content appropriate.